

To Dr. Flick from Dr. Porter

Mount Rose Sanitorium,
9200 South Broadway, St. Louis,
Nov. 21, 1903.

Dear Dr. Flick:

Many thanks for yours of recent date. I think as you do regarding the "Congress on Tuberculosis" and have, so far, refused any official connection with them. I have, however, agreed to read a paper at the one meeting here next year under certain "conditions." I did not care to seem lacking in loyalty to our city in its exhibition year, but I have since learned that which makes me hesitate to comply. I have seen too much of medico-politics to have much faith in its value.

Why not make the Henry Phipps Institute the pivotal point for earnest work in this direction and, if you will, have branches or associate organizations in each large city? More could be done by a permanent association than by any Congress, and yet it could be in harmony with the best.

I have to organize some of our business men here, but hardly know how to begin. I hope to take up the work of limitation with our Health Department soon, and also with the Provident Association our largest charity organization.

My first thought is to have the law against spitting in public places, enforced. We have such a law, and it can be made effective. Then a crusade against closed street-cars and schoolrooms can be made good. I hope, also, that a printed circular with directions as to ventilation, care of the sputum, etc., will be given to each tubercular patient attending the dispensary, the case registered, tabulated and followed by the inspectors of the Health Department or the Provident Association, who will enforce the provisions of the circular and also order disinfection when needed.

The compulsion of the registration of private patients is another matter which I feel, from former experience, needs to be dealt with very carefully.

I am not, as yet, a dweller in Utopia, but I believe that these things, at least, are within reach and that the business and social activities so marked in our city at this time makes the present most opportune for aggressive work.

Advise me as you can along these lines and any other that you may think practical. I need more light, and feel that the field is large, and while there will be plenty of help there is need of well-devised organization. The kind recognition of the little that has been done and the great opportunity and necessities, makes the sense of responsibility very burdensome.

I beg your indulgence for this long letter and, with many wishes for your own success, I remain

Very truly yours,

Wm Porter.